IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Middleton, Guy	Art Unit: Unknown
Serial No.: Pending	Attorney Docket No.: 101159-26405
Filed: Herewith	

Title: SERVICE ALLOCATION AND
ASSIGNING METHOD AND
PROGRAM THEREFOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
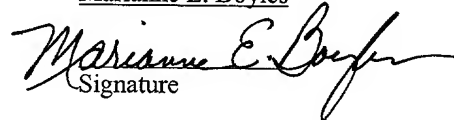Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in conjunction with Applicant's new utility

application:

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING UNDER 37 CFR §§1.8(a) and 1.10

I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being:

[X]   deposited with the United States Post Service on this date, February 25, 2002, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Amendment, Washington, D.C. 20231.

[ ]   with sufficient postage as first class mail (37 CFR §1.8(a))

[X]   as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label No. EK235406642 (37 CFR §1.10)

Dated: _February 27, 2002_   Marianne E. Boyles

Signature

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Once amended) A computer sever-based process for matching users of a messaging system requiring a particular service to those users of the same messaging system who have identified themselves as being capable of providing such a service, said users requiring a service being required to create an item in the messaging system including descriptive textual information concerning the service required and one or more proposed times and dates when that service would ideally be required, said service providers being required to create items including descriptive textual information concerning the service provided and a plurality of times when said service is capable of being provided, wherein the process includes the steps of:

[-]deriving a query string from the textual and time and date information entered by the user requiring a service;

[-]   [-]using said query string to query the messaging system database to extract relevant records identifying users offering a service of the type described and available at the relevant time and date; and

[-]   automatically returning the information retrieved from the database to the user requiring a service with information identifying the said users offering said service.

5. (Once amended) A process according to claim 4 [or any claim dependent thereon] wherein users creating appointment items using the system are required to make a selection a whether a service is being sought or offered before the appointment item is created in the [MSP] messaging system database.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to make them more readable.

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION
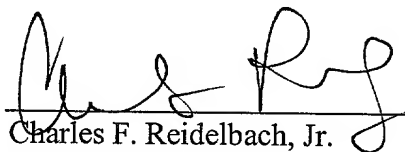## FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NECESSARY FEES

If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the foregoing communication

(including but not limited to the payment of an extension fee or issue fees), or if any

overpayment is to be refunded in connection with the above-identified application, any such

charges or fee, or any such overpayment may be respectively paid out of, or into, the Deposit

Account No. 501760 of Higgs, Fletcher & Mack LLP. If any such payment also requires a

Petition or Extension Request, please construe this authorization to pay as the necessary Petition

or request which is required to accompany the payment.

Dated: _Feb 27, 2002_

Respectfully submitted,

HIGGS, FLETCHER & MACK LLP

By _____
Charles F. Reidelbach, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 36,649

HIGGS, FLETCHER & MACK LLP
401 West "A" Street, Suite 2600
San Diego, California 92101-7910

Telephone: (619) 236-1551

450366.1